

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC.

**Moderator: Sarah O'Hagan
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Operator: Good day everyone. Welcome to the International Rescue Committee Briefing from the Field Haiti Disaster Update. My name is Kim and I will be the operator facilitating this call. Please note that today's call is being recorded.

At this time, I would like to turn the call over to Ms. Sarah O'Hagan, co-chair of the IRC Board of Directors. Please go ahead.

Sarah O'Hagan: Thank you and good afternoon to all of the members of the IRC family, our friends and supporters, who've called in for this Haiti Disaster Update. I am Sarah O'Hagan, the co-chair of the International Rescue Committee Board, and on this call, I'll serve as your moderator.

These periodic briefings from the field give our often far flung staff the opportunity to speak directly to supporters, and to let you know what they've been doing and to answer your questions.

Many of you on the call generously support the work of the IRC, and it would not be possible for IRC to respond quickly to emergency that it has in this case without the vital, unrestricted funds you provide. We know you take your partnership seriously with us, and that's why you're calling in. We take our partnership with you equally, seriously. We thank you for your confidence in the IRC, and today, we're here to discuss IRC's role in the earthquake relief effort in Haiti.

IRC deployed its emergency response team to Haiti within hours of the quake. Our team includes experts in emergency health, shelter, and children's welfare. They're working with local aid groups to provide health in the devastated city of Port-au-Prince, the survivors of the quake that struck that country on January 12. It's now more than a month after the quake, and enormous numbers of people in the Haitian capital still lack clean water, shelter, and medical care.

The IRC has moved into action carrying out programs to provide clean water and sanitation to thousands of displaced Haitians in Port-au-Prince. It has also launched healing, recreational, and protection programs for Haitian children, and its extending efforts to reunite separated children with their families.

The IRC is building washing facilities and latrines for homeless Haitians living in these makeshift outdoor settlements which we've seen so much up on the news. The IRC's construction of these facilities is part of an effort to avert the sanitation crisis that could lead to outbreaks of cholera and other deadly diseases in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions in the settlements packed with earthquake survivors. IRC is working with local communities, selecting workers who are then hired by the IRC to build the latrines and washing facilities for their own communities.

Simultaneously, IRC is working to address the needs of vulnerable children. On this call, you'll hear from IRC Child Protection experts, who, together with local partners have erected child-friendly spaces in tented locations around the capital city, and who have launched recreational and learning programs for young children and teenagers.

The IRC is also working closely with other aid agencies to identify, register, and aid separated children. All of these programs are designed to restore sense of calm, and safety, and routine to young people when everything around them is more or less chaos.

We've got three terrific speakers today, who, by dint of exhaustive training, are all experts in what they do, and who by accident of birth, are all women.

They are, Gillian Dunn, who is the director of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit at the IRC. Gillian is responsible for the overall leadership and management of the unit, including managing its 15-member operational team, the emergency response team. Prior to heading the entire unit, Gillian ran the team, and led assessments and emergency startup operations in the field in situations as diverse as Pakistan following the earthquake, Aceh following the tsunami, Chad at the height of the Darfur crisis, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chechnya, and numerous other crisis situations on the Continent of Africa, South America, Asia, and Central Europe.

In October of 2004, Gillian was awarded one of the IRC's most prestigious internal awards, "The Sarlo, Distinguished Humanitarian Award", in recognition of her extraordinary dedication, sacrifice, and achievement in serving refugees.

We also have Sarah Smith, the director of the Children and Youth Protection and Development Unit. In this role, Sarah provides overall leadership to IRC's education, youth and child protection programs. Sarah's been with IRC since 2004, first in the children's unit as we prefer to call it and then as senior technical adviser for research and evaluation. Before joining IRC, Sarah worked for Concern Worldwide and for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. She has managed and advised on programs in countries all over Africa and Asia. She holds a Masters Degree in Education from Harvard University, and in addition to full time work and full time travel, is currently pursuing her Doctorate at Columbia University.

Our third speaker is Rebecca Chandler, who's joining us from the field in Haiti, from Port-au-Prince. She's our emergency child and youth protection and development coordinator, the emergency coordinator for the children's unit. She first joined IRC in 2005 as a child youth

protection manager in Chad. In 2006, she took on a similar assignment in Sudan, and then moved on to cover a larger geographic arena in Darfur for about 2-1/2 years. Before working with the IRC, she worked with the United Nations Population Fund and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia. She has two Masters Degrees from Columbia University, one in Public Health, and one in Social Work and graduated with honors in both fields.

So, I want to get on to a conversation with our speakers, and I wanted to note that there's going to be ample time of nearly 15 minutes at the end of this call for your questions that's what we really want to hear is your questions. There are a large number of people who have phoned in, and we hope to have the opportunity to take as many questions as possible. So, please, jot down your questions as we go along and you'll have an opportunity to raise them.

I want to start with Gillian. So, Gillian, now the IRC situation report describes that American Airlines flights are landing with regulatory in Haiti and that would seem to imply that there is a return to a state of normalcy. That would seem hard to believe a months on given what we know. But can you take us back to what you first saw when you first arrived there, the conditions, and then bring us forward to where we are.

Gillian Dunn: Sure. So, I arrived in Port-au-Prince at about 4 o'clock in the morning when it was still quite dark, and the airport was essentially deserted. Even though it was still early, I saw hundreds of people moving around. So, the first thing that really struck me was, how the fact that this earthquake hit in urban area, and in particular at the capital city which is home to (upward) of 3 million people was going to influence the nature of the crisis.

And then, throughout that day, and the days that followed that impression continued, but, now, with the scale of the destruction really visible wherever you look. I saw street after street of rubble where homes and businesses used to – used to stand piled tens of feet thick. And all over these piles of rubble were people who were searching for their family members, were searching

for their friends, were searching for their neighbors. And you can imagine the whole thing was desperately sad especially if you started to see people give up hope after the first week or two.

But on the other hand, I also saw people, who, despite this incredible shock they had gone through, not only being part of the rescue effort, but also, going about their lives as best they could and that's really a testament to the strength and resilience of the Haitian people that they were salvaging what they could from their homes which have been destroyed. They were setting up new shelters for themselves and their families. They were looking after their children and some were even restarting their businesses as soon as they could.

Sarah O'Hagan: And now that a month has gone on, and what's the current situation with regard to health, water and safety conditions in Haiti?

Gillian Dunn: Now, it's six weeks after the quake actually and ((inaudible)) are still focusing on meeting the basic needs of those who were affected which is some 2 to 3 million people. Some of the key concerns for IRC are around these issues of health and safety and also income for the population. So, within health, trauma, and subsequent care of the earthquake victims, is still – is still a huge ongoing concern. But what can sicken, and even kill many more times a number of people are disease outbreaks due to poor sanitation and overcrowding.

So, there were about 300,000 injured in the earthquake, there could be several million people who are at risk from subsequent disease outbreaks. And that's why we put certain emphasis on things like building latrines, and making sure that people have a place to wash their hands. It's not very glamorous, but it does – it does save lives.

We're also very concerned about protecting the basic human rights of the population especially those who may be more vulnerable to violations such as children and women. So, for IRC, we do

activities such as heading up family unification programs, and ensuring that women have equal access to humanitarian assistance.

And finally, we recognized that a pressing need for the earthquake victims is some kind of income, so that they can look after themselves and their own families and their own needs, both in the short term and in the long term. So, we have public works programs which help get cash into people's hands, as well as longer term market recovery activities.

Sarah O'Hagan: Gillian, let's bring Sarah Smith into the conversation. Sarah, what are the immediate things that you get concerned about when you hear about a disaster like Haiti in terms of protecting children? What are the unique challenges that children face in this setting and the Haitian population is overwhelmingly so young?

Sarah Smith: Yes. There are really so many concerns. First, we're concerned about children who are injured or children who have been separated from their families and their parents, and then, families and parents who have been separated from their children or can't find their children. We're obviously also concerned about those children who are with their families who are now living in the street, their schools are destroyed and any element of stability in their lives is gone.

In a situation like this where everyone is affected, we also know that whatever service has existed for children before the disaster, those are now significantly weakened or destroyed. So, what we have to think about immediately is how to find people, Haitian social workers, teachers, and other people who are best suited to help those children. And we have to work with them because this is a new situation for them. We have to help them understand how to work with these children who are grieving. We have to train them, so that they know how to register children find families and safe places for them to stay.

And then, on top of this, we have to work in coordination with all of the other agencies out there trying to serve children.

Sarah O'Hagan: And the – some of the unique challenges that children face in this setting are compounded by the fact that children who previously were in a weakened setting, don't have any of the tools that you can use to identify them by which they can – their families can be identified. So, are you kind of starting – is this comparable to other crisis or you're starting from a further back point?

Sarah Smith: It is in a sense you're starting from behind, but in so many situations, that's the case. I think – we like to think of it more as an opportunity to, as we call it, "build back better" in a sense. Even though those services were weak for children and children were already disadvantaged to begin with, this is a chance, in a sense, to rebuild those social services for them. For instance, the social work network that existed in Haiti before was not at all strong. Now, there's a chance to help to build it back better, in a way that social workers can really serve children and address some of the real challenges children had in Haiti before the quake.

Sarah O'Hagan: So, let's hear from Becky. Rebecca, what – so, how is that going? What's happening on the ground right now? What programs has IRC established to help children?

Rebecca Chandler: So, we have – we have two different types of programs. One is sort of meeting the needs of the majority of children through recreational and activities where children can come and play and have just a normal routine. We found over the years of research that you know children who have a normal routine and have something that they can sort of look forward to in the day are much more resilient than those that don't have those opportunities. So, we've set up child-friendly spaces that's what we call them and we're working with local partners to continue to develop more of those centers.

In addition, we are setting up with family tracing network, so we have trained caseworkers now who are going out, identifying and referring children who have been separated or unaccompanied who are also at great – you know risk of abuse or exploitation. And so, they are following up on those cases now and we're working with other partners to make sure that we can roll this out throughout the country.

Sarah O'Hagan: Will you describe a little bit further, Becky, some of the partners that you're working with. Some of the capabilities that you found on the ground and how – what kind of expertise the IRC is lending to them and how that partnership is working?

Rebecca Chandler: Obviously, well, I think – you know IRC has global expertise in family tracing and reunification and case management and in terms of setting up children's programs, but we're new to Haiti, and so, the system that we did was to try and go and find who has the grassroots networks who already understands the underlying child protection issues in Haiti, and how do we reach into those networks. So, we've been working with agencies that have been working very closely on the issue of domestic servitude in Haiti that's this idea of restavec which is a Creole word for taking a child in, but as a domestic servant.

And we've been also been working with a local partner working on issues of youth and livelihoods to complement their activities with child activities, so they had a really good youth programming. But then, they realized that there are a lot of children affected around their area, and so, we worked with them to train some of their workers to then start these child-friendly spaces.

Sarah O'Hagan: And let's talk about the children themselves, Becky. How are they reacting and adjusting?

Rebecca Chandler: I think, I mean, it really does depend on the children themselves. You see some children that are just completely back in a normal routine, and then, you see some children that

are just absolutely – they're scared, and they're frustrated, and they're you know trying to figure out what's going to happen next.

I think you know it's difficult because children express themselves sometimes – you know more less verbally than they used to, but certainly, through their eyes and through their physical appearance, you can certainly see how they're adjusting. And we're really trying to support family networks to support their own children, because children in a supportive family environment are adapting much better.

The youth, I think, are really trying to figure out what is their role in reconstructing this country and how do they take an active effort in rebuilding. There has been a lot of discussions with our youth groups – with the youth groups for this with local NGO on how is it that – how did these buildings fall apart and how do we actually have the skills to really build structures that could withstand earthquakes in the future.

Sarah O'Hagan: So, some of the particular children that you've been helping are rising to the occasion and functioning as generators of solutions?

Rebecca Chandler: Absolutely, absolutely. And we've been able – we have some fantastic success stories of reuniting children that have been separated from their families, which is pretty moving. You know because children during the earthquake were you know someone who was – a child was injured, they were quickly sent to a hospital, and then, the hospital staff call us and say, "we don't know where their families are." And we've been able to trace several of their families who assumed that their children were dead, which has been absolutely pretty incredible.

Sarah O'Hagan: You know the IRC has played a role elsewhere around the globe in child tracing and family reunification, and I wonder, Becky, if you would let us know what some of the tools are? I

understand there is a database that the IRC is using that's an interagency tool, can you explain that to us?

Rebecca Chandler: Yes, over you know learning from past emergencies, we realized that case management especially when it's – you know in terms of family tracing, where you may find a child in one area but need to look into a completely different area, it's very difficult to manage those paper files.

And so, we have set up a database in collaboration with other agencies. So, regardless of what kind of agency is working on it, they use the same database. We enter in registration forms and follow up with the – with the child, so that we can easily generate reports and find out exactly what the needs of children in this area are, see some overall trends, and also transfer cases from one area of the country to another to – in a way to really ensure collaboration and good case management.

Sarah O'Hagan: So, Sarah Smith, let's come – let's pull back a little bit and talk about both the immediate objectives of this program that Becky is describing and the long term objective in the context of the immediate and long term needs of the children of Haiti?

Sarah Smith: Yes. IRC is unique, I think, in our ability to respond so quickly to a new emergency well. At the same time, thinking about our programming and what will be best for the longer term needs of Haiti. For example, as Becky described, we're working with Haitian organizations to help them do this family tracing and reunification now with the hopes that that will then lead to in a longer term programming with broader established institutions and the government, including for example through the social work, and other institutions that will help rebuild as I had described before the social work force in Haiti, so, immediate needs, but then, also taking that – taking that into the longer term.

Similarly, as Becky described, we're setting up these child-friendly spaces, and in those, providing nonformal education to young children. And then, in a long term, we'll be thinking about how we can work with the Ministry of Education Teacher Training Institute and other educational institutions and help them similarly build back better train teachers in a different way.

And then, lastly, Becky described a bit about the Cash for Work with youth that we're doing. Right now, we're really hoping to engage youth the way Becky described in getting them to be active agents of rebuilding Haiti. In a longer term, this will look more like economic programs for youth that lead to sustainable and viable employment for them going forward.

Sarah O'Hagan: So, Becky, give us a little bit more color for what's a day in your life like right now? What kind of skills and what kind of resources within yourself do you need to call forth to do what you're doing all day long and you know is there – is there hope all around you from the efforts of the young people whose lives you're trying to move forward or is there a sense of the overwhelming magnitude of the destruction?

Rebecca Chandler: I think – I mean, I think, we're now in a position where we've been doing a lot of training, we've been getting people on the streets and I think having a lot of more success stories which has been really helpful, but it is always sort of a balance of how do we really go out and roll out these services as best as possible which – I think, in some ways, means you know the need for unrestricted money has really allowed us to move much faster than other agencies that are waiting for approval for specific things.

And so, making sure that our you know family tracing teams have a camera so that they can you know document a child that's under five is really important, and we're able to purchase those based on unrestricted money which has been really useful.

In terms of my day-to-day routine, I'm – you know I'm working 16-hour a day and trying to just get out and facilitate everything that needs to be done, and making sure that these caseworkers who've just started to feel support and are able to come to me with problems or concerns and make sure that this process continues to go forward. And I think one of the challenges is also sort of working in a longer term.

So you know starting these programs now, we are also involving the government, involving local partnership that this can be a long term response.

Sarah O'Hagan: And it that sense, thank you, Becky. In that sense, Gillian, we're still in an emergency response phase here. But can you give us some sense of how we get out of emergency response into longer term programming? When -what's the – what point will we know where we – we're out of phase A and into the next part of it, and how long will it be?

Gillian Dunn: Well, there really is no clear cut end to the emergency phase. Right now, we're really are trying to just maximize our impact, what can we do quickly, what can we do to scale, to meet the basic needs of those who have been affected. But we are very aware that the rainy season starts in earnest, in a few weeks, so we've already had some quite heavy downpour. And the Atlantic hurricane season starts in the beginning of June.

So, our emphasis is that, we have to prepare the population as much as we can before those most – more serious storms and potential crises affect the population. But in the long term, as Becky and Sarah have described, our strategy really builds on the emergency projects and builds on the relationships that we've made, really with an eye to supporting the government, supporting institutions, and building the capacity of the – of the Haitian people themselves towards longer term sustainability.

Sarah O'Hagan: I think, we may move towards questions at this point, because we've got a lot of callers and a lot of questions. While we are opening the line for questions, I wanted to just make two points to the callers to minimize background noise. If there are donors or supporters who are listening in a group on a speaker phone, please pick up the phone handset when you're asking a question. The operator will announce that a question is ready to be asked, and we'll announce the caller's name.

Operator: Thank you. If you would like to ask a question today, please press star one on your touchtone telephone. If you're using a speakerphone, please make sure your mute function is turned off to allow your signal to reach our equipment. Once again, press star one to ask a question.

Our first question today is from Peter Davies.

Peter Davies: Thank you. As one who has followed IRC's work for many, many years, having worked in international development myself, I'm always interested in the issue of local partners and national local groups. I wonder if you could just indicate some of those that you are working with.

And also the – and second question related to that is how large a staff do you have of expatriates now in Haiti, and how large a local, national staff recognizing, of course, that you're working with partner organizations but your own staff? How large a staff have you now built up in Haiti?

Gillian Dunn: This is – this is Gillian Dunn speaking. So, for your – the second part of your question. We have 65 staff members right now in Haiti, about 15 of those are our expatriate staff from our programs around the world, the emergency response team and also support from other countries that we have around the world. And those expatriates are there for varying lengths of time. Their job is, is really to support and to train and to provide the technical expertise.

But the bulk of the work as is true with our programs around the world, is really done by our national staff and our national partners. So, 50 people on staff right now, and we have about a dozen partners already lined up. Some of these partners are quite small. Some of them were quite large, but have been badly affected by the earthquake. And some of them are actually internationally known networks working globally. So, very different levels doing different kinds of work. But all of it comes together to really extend our network, to extend our local knowledge, and to extend the amount of manpower that we have during the response.

Peter Davies: Thank you. That's encouraging.

Operator: And moving on, our next question will come from Marian Schinske.

Marian Schinske: Hello. I'm a big fan of you all and I'm so grateful that you're there in Haiti helping kids, families. My question is specifically what recreational activities, in particular and educational activities are you offering to kids there?

Sarah O'Hagan: Becky, would you like to answer that?

Rebecca Chandler: Sure. So, in our training, what we've done is had the – we used to train the local – sort of facilitator in trying to come up with a schedule of the day and fit in different types of activities for different times. So, again, putting a structure on that sort of recreational you know on activities. Those include physical activities. So, they may have been playing games. They have – dance has been really popular here. There's been so many ballet schools that were destroyed in the earthquake, so they've been putting on those little dance routines. Recreation, we have lots of soccer games and involving the youth.

The youth have been doing more sort of group activities and sort of discussion groups, and also, the football teams – the football groups. And then, also, we've been working on just nonformal

education at this point. But the idea would be that this child-friendly spaces in the next several months, would then transition into more education activities as children kind of get back into a routine. But keeping those sort of lessons fairly short as given their attention span is limited right now with so many other things going on.

Marian Schinske: Thank you.

Operator: Our next question is from Margaret Poethig.

Margaret Poethig: Hi, thanks for taking my call and thanks for all the great work that you are doing there.

I am an individual donor and I was trying to keep track of what you're doing in your Web site, and I knew – and saw it one time, one of your goals was to prevent sex crimes against women and I'm curious about what you're saying in terms of crimes against women and children, and also, whether the police are functioning effectively? Do you see them you know anything you can say about that I'd be interested in? Thank you.

Sarah O'Hagan: Sarah.

Sarah Smith: Sure. I ...

Sarah O'Hagan: Oh, Becky, do you want to take it? You go for it.

Rebecca Chandler: Yes, sure. You can pipe in if I miss something, but I know that one of the things there were a lot of very, very active women's groups in Haiti before the earthquake, and very powerful sort of you know giving out women's voices, women's hotlines and things.

And so, what our gender-based violence team had been doing is trying to reactivate some of these networks and making sure that women have the, especially sort of – right now, it's on

immediate response. Looking at, OK do – can somebody who has been a victim of sexual violence who you know reach the services they need, but then, also looking in terms of prevention because people are living on top of each other in very difficult situations.

So, mobilizing women, making sure that people know about the resources in their community, and then, also I – our UN partners are also looking at trying to train the police, the UN Police, and also have some sort of referral mechanisms, so that if there is any sort of reports coming out that we could – that people can respond.

Sarah, do you want to add anything to that?

Sarah Smith: No. That's great, Becky.

Margaret Poethig: Thank you.

Operator: And our next question is ((inaudible)).

Male: I don't know whether you are involved in the physical treatment of victims of the – of the earthquake, but I'm aware of that orthopedic doctors, in particular, have been able to save limbs of many of the people and they say that unless they have follow-up therapy and care, they're going to end up with either immovable limbs or also have to face amputation in the future. Do you have any information on that situation?

Sarah O'Hagan: Sarah? Or Gillian, would you like to try that?

Gillian Dunn: Yes. I mean, it's very true that in the first days and weeks of a disaster of this magnitude, the real concern is, is people who have been – who have been victims of the actual trauma. But it doesn't stop once they've had one surgery or one treatment, and the care must continue for –

and sometimes it's just Days and sometimes it's weeks and months and even years especially when children are involved where there's ongoing care as far as fitting prosthesis and so on.

So, our partner's work in the area of direct healthcare, our approach has been more to support to the public healthcare system, so that we can ensure that people are not exposed to infections, for example, which is another concern of people who have actually suffered the trauma during the earthquake.

Male: Thank you.

Operator: Our next question is from Daniel Clark.

Daniel Clark: Hi. First, thank you so much for doing what you do. It's really an honor to be able to speak with you. You mentioned efforts to coordinate with the Haitian government in many of your program. I just wanted to know about the capacity of the Haitian government whether that's improving over time or that kind of reached a point now (it's) stagnating or do that is that becoming sort of the greatest ...

Sarah O'Hagan: Daniel, we're having a little bit of trouble hearing you. If I understood the question correctly, you're asking about the capacity of the government at the current moment?

Daniel Clark: Exactly, yes, to support the programs that you're implementing, you mentioned that ((inaudible)).

Sarah O'Hagan: To support the programs that we're implementing. Becky, would you like to answer that?

Rebecca Chandler: Yes, we've been working very closely with (IBESR) which is sort of the local arm of the Ministry of Social Welfare, and I think that they have taken an active role and they're trying to figure out how we can work together, but again you know some of the ministries were completely devastated. The Ministry of Gender you know lost incredible amounts of staff. So, I think that they have been incredibly open to what's you know doing efforts together, but also just trying to improve that, that relationship over time.

Daniel Clark: OK, thank you.

Operator: And just a reminder, it is star one if you have a question today. We'll take our next question from Tanya Welsh.

Tanya Welsh: Hi. I have – my question is in regards to any local groups who decide that they want to start up NGO-type situation where they feel like they have something to offer the people in Haiti to help during this time of rebuilding. And so my question is, how do you work with these local NGOs to make sure that once you guys leave or if your presence isn't there that they can sustain themselves and not just have these pockets of organizations being created and then once their international groups and the relief work leaves that these crumble?

Gillian Dunn: You know it's a very good question. This is – this is Gillian speaking and it's certainly true that people feel so strongly about helping their own communities that often you will have people come together and say, "We want to come together. We do have some kind of talent or some kind of resource, some kind of a particular skill that we think can be useful to the recovery effort." Some of those do survive in a kind of initial phase and are able to find their own funding.

But others, kind of, find that after the initial – after the initial emergency response, they're actually happy to devolve and to say that, "We did what we could, we did what we came for," and to kind

of not continue on with their activities. For those groups that do want to continue on, we do have procedures within the IRC to help build the capacity of these local groups.

Sometimes, it's a matter of having financed training, sometimes it's a matter having more technical training. So, it really depends on the goals of the group, and it depends on the skill sets that we can bring as IRC to that group. We can also refer them to other groups as their particular aim is not necessarily compatible with our skill set.

Tanya Welsh: OK. Thank you.

Operator: Moving on, we'll hear from Jacqueline Millan.

Jacqueline Millan: Hello. Thank you so much for setting up this call. It's been very, very informative. I was asking if you could provide a little bit more detail on the Cash for Work Program specifically targeted at youth. How you set up that program? You know what age children are or youth are eligible? What types of activities, work they do? If either Gillian or Rebecca could respond, that would be terrific.

Gillian Dunn: Sure, I can start and then, maybe, Becky if you want to talk specifically about the youth.

So, the idea of Cash for Work is not so much the results that you'll get from people working. The goal is really to get cash into people's hands.

So, in a disaster like this earthquake, one very obvious activity is clearing rubble. And clearing the sanitation canals where they've been blocked. Again, so that the kind of makeshift sewerage system works and the city doesn't flood during the rainy season. So, those are types of activities that we undertake with the Cash for Work Program.

As far as the youth involvement, obviously, you have to make sure that it's age appropriate and also gender appropriate, but also, the children and youth or youth, not children, youth would not be exposed to anything that would be dangerous or anything that would be disturbing.

As you know there were a lot of casualties in the earthquake, and so, of course, we want to make sure that the youth aren't exposed to any potential discoveries as they're clearing – as they're clearing the rubble. But Becky perhaps you have more detail on how the youth themselves are involved?

Rebecca Chandler: Yes. I mean, I think the youth, like I said before, are very eager to take part in what's happening. And when we say youth, we're talking about sort of you know older 18 to 25-year-old youth that can really be involved in this process.

They're sitting idly in the camps and they're really looking for a way to contribute, and so you know a lot of people even just walking into a camp will come up to you and say, "What can I do? How can I help?" "What you know what opportunities are available," and I think it really gives them a sense of being able to do something and being a part of positive role in their community rather than you know sitting idly in the camp and being frustrated.

And the idea would be that over time that this would be you know initially it's about getting cash in their pocket for their daily you know daily needs. And then, we would also add the components of business management and sort of financial management, so that they could use these funds better in the future.

Jacqueline Millan: Thank you.

Operator: Our next – our next question is from Brandon Fryman.

Brandon Fryman: Hello. I have a question about building the infrastructure. Are there – are you guys – are the streets being cleared? Are houses being built? Are hospitals being somewhat erected? General infrastructures so people can start living their daily life?

Gillian Dunn: Yes, that's of one the largest problems that we face. Again, just going back to this idea of it being an urban area, a very densely populated area, and the capital city where, of course, there are seats of government and just leadership throughout the city. So, actually clearing the city and rebuilding is a huge undertaking that will take years and years, and it will take not only the efforts of organizations like IRC, but also larger construction firms.

I think, one message that the aid sector really wants to put out there is that we don't want to see the whole city razed because there are areas that are still habitable, there are areas that are still functioning. And if we get into this idea that the whole city has to be knocked down and rebuilt, then we're just displacing more people. We're destroying more homes and we're destroying more businesses.

So, the idea is to be very selective in what needs to be – what needs to be cleared, what needs to be knocked down, for example, if a building is just structurally unsafe, but making sure that we're not destroying buildings that are still useable.

Brandon Fryman: OK.

Operator: Nothing further Mr. Fryman?

Brandon Fryman: No. That will do it.

Operator: We'll move on to William Marrow.

William Marrow: Yes. My – I have a couple of questions. Number one, in paying the cash to these youth that are helping, I'd like to know what their cost is, and secondly, I'd like to know if you have any data on the number of amputees as a result of the earthquake and currently – current number and potential number in the future?

Gillian Dunn: The Cash for Work Program it's – the local currency is called the Gourde and it's about 180 to 200 Gourde per day for an eight-hour workday. And that's equivalent to about \$5 a day. As to the number of amputees, I myself, I don't have that number but I'm sure that one of our staff member could get back to you if you so desire.

William Marrow: Yes. And one final question, if I may. The buildings that have been destroyed, as I'm sure that you realize, several of those buildings, entire families were killed. How are they going to identify who owned that property and who that property will go to now? Would it go to the state or family member or what?

Gillian Dunn. We have protection monitoring programs which are – which are working on the most immediate needs as far as legal identification especially for people who lost their ID cards in the earthquake. Just helping them access humanitarian assistance without their identification cards, is a large program that we're undertaking right now. And that will evolve into the kinds of issues exactly as you're stating as far as – as far as land rights and property and so on.

So, we have legal assistance centers in other parts of the world, and we're looking to copy that type of programming to make sure that we can be there and we can help people access their legal right.

William Marrow: Is the government of Haiti doing anything about finger printing and identifying the people that ...

Sarah O'Hagan: Mr. Marrow, I think we're going to have to move on because ...

William Marrow: OK.

Sarah O'Hagan: ... we've got so many other questions in the queue. Thank you.

William Marrow: Thank you. Thank you.

Operator: Our next question will come from Helen Jean Dunn

Helen Jean Dunn: Hello. I'm so grateful for the work that you're doing. I was wondering, Gillian, if you could please describe how on earth you ever got started when you arrived at the airport at 4 am in the dark and in the aftermath of such destruction? Would you please just describe a little bit about what you did that very first day to get started?

Gillian Dunn: Well, the first thing that we do when we arrive in any situation is really try to get a handle on the context. In Haiti, we – Haiti is a country that we had been on our watch list for some time, so I'd already done quite a bit of background reading and was quite familiar with the general context. So, with a disaster striking that country, the next thing was to figure out what are people already doing? What the capacities are and what the needs are?

The needs in an earthquake are pretty clear. We know that people are going to need shelter and water and sanitation and healthcare as well as the protective elements such as the children and women that we have been speaking about. So for a (NATO) organization for starting up, we try to find what our value added is. How can we help people meet their basic needs? And how can we build the capacity that is already there whether it's through the population or through local partners to have the maximum impact we possibly can.

Operator: Nothing further, Ms. Dunn?

Helen Jean Dunn: No. Thank you so much.

Operator: And that is all the time we have for questions today Ms. O'Hagan. I'll turn the conference back to you for any additional or closing remarks.

Sarah O'Hagan: Well, I want to thank all of our speakers, Becky for keeping a good clear Blackberry line open from Port-au-Prince, Sarah Smith and Gillian Dunn from IRC headquarters here in New York for sharing your expertise, your experiences and your knowledge of the situation with us today.

Gillian spoke earlier about how the IRC is doing. They're not very glamorous work of water and sanitation and building latrines, and I'm thinking (instead) really that it's extremely glamorous work when you're talking about really the benediction of clean water in the situation. And IRC has finally turned efforts to move from a situation of needing basic needs to a moment where we can all together begin to build back better.

So, I want to thank all of you donors on the call for helping the – helping IRC to rescue lives through your unrestricted support which fuels our work to save the lives of refugees and displaced families in 42 countries around the world and 22 cities in the United States.

And I want just to remind you of a couple of things you can do to help. The first is what you're doing now, stay informed. Visit our Web site www.theirc.org and sign up for our e-mail alert to these briefings from the field update, live post, visit our photos, and you know keep abreast of the latest information on both this crisis and other programs and services IRC is engaged in.

And you can also get involved if you'd like to raise funds for our work in Haiti. You can do that among your own friends and family and community. You can get started and set up your own personal donation portal right away on our Web site, and the location for that on the Web site is theirc.org/diy as in do it yourself, and certainly, you can make a donation to the IRC. It'll help the IRC assist the victims in this natural disaster in Haiti as well as refugees and displaced people fleeing violence and devastation elsewhere around the world.

Donations made towards the Haiti Relief Effort are tax deductible through (March 9) for your 2009 tax return, I'll just add. But I really want to thank all of the supporters for participating in this conference call and to the IRC staff.

And that concludes our call for today.

Operator: That does conclude our conference call. Thank you all for your participation.

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